रोज़गार गारंटी का मामला है कि फ्लड प्रोटेक्शन के लिए जो बांध बना है, जब सम्पूर्ण असम में बाढ़ आई, असम में बाढ़ आई, लोग तबाह हुए, लेकिन वह 20-25 हजार की आबादी तथा उसके 30-35 गांव बाढ़ से मुक्त रहे और वहां पर बाढ़ नहीं आ सकी। किसी कतिपय स्थान पर कोई हेरा-फेरी हो सकती है, क्योंकि यह इतनी सारी पंचायतों में यह लागू है, कहीं कमजोरियां, कहीं गलतियां और कहीं फरेब भी हो सकता है, लेकिन वे पकड़ लिए जाएंगे. इसमें ऐसा प्रावधान है, इसलिए वे खास स्पेसिफिक बता रहे हैं। महोदय, असम में 6 लाख, 3 हजार, 8 सौ तीन, number of households who have demanded employment, number of households provided employment . 5 lakh, 78 हजार, 578, यह असम की रिपोर्ट है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Separate labour laws for SEZs

*284. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government intends to have separate labour laws for Special Economic zones (SEZs);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the kind of changes contemplated in the existing labour laws;

(c) whether Government has consulted the various stakeholders in this regard;

(d) how labour disputes are currently dealt with in the existing set up;

(e) whether Government has received any representations in this regard; and

(f) if so, what kind of dispute settlement mechanism has been desired by the workers in the SEZs?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) to (f) In the Special Economic zones (SEZs) where the Development Commissioners (DCs) of the Zones are declared as 'Labor Commissioners' by the respective State Governments, the DCs exercise the same dispute resolution mechanism as exercised by the State Government Labour Officers. While the State Labour Department officials are also consulted/involved in case of major disputes, minor disputes are resolved in the zone through consultations with the DC of the Zone and his staff Representations suggesting that there should not be any dilution of workers' rights in the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) were received.

Extension of NREGS

*286. SHRI DARA SINGH:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to extend the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) all over the country;

(b) if so, whether ground work to extend the scheme has been completed;

(c) the fund earmarked for the purpose;

(d) the number of additional families likely to be covered under NREGS;

(e) whether any suggestion/request has come from States in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India has decided to extend NREGS to all the remaining rural districts in the country, including the Union Territories with effect from 1.4.2008. A notification to this effect was issued on 28.9.2007. A sum of Rs. 159.44 crore have been released to the Phase III districts (except districts of Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat) for making preparatory arrangements like IEC, printing and procurement of statutory documents, training of officials and non-officials and preparation of perspective plans.

(c) NREGA is demand driven and not an allocation based programme. A National Employment Guarantee Fund has been established for providing funds to the States for implementation of the Act. For the current financial year, a budget provision of Rs. 12,000 crores was made for implementation of the Act. Provisions are made in the budget for implementation of the Act on the basis of funds utilized by the States and also on the basis of demand for work in the previous year.

(d) NREGA is demand driven. Adult members of any rural household may apply for employment under the Act subject to an over-all ceiling of 100 days of employment in a financial year per household. Therefore, no targets can be fixed for providing employment under the Act.

(e) and (f) Suggestions/requests had been received from various States for coverage of selected districts under NREGA. However, Government has decided to extend NREGA to all the remaining rural districts in the country including Union Territories with effect from 1.4.2008.

NREG programme in U.P.

*287. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that flagship scheme National Rural Employment Guarantee (NREG) programme has been accorded less priority by the present Uttar Pradesh Government;

(b) whether Government is also aware that there is no impact of this programme in eastern Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) (a) No, Sir.